

COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 20, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 20, 2017, at 1:18 a.m.:

That the Senate recede from its amendment with a further amendment H.R. 1.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 695.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

COMMENDING JARROD DAVIS FOR
HIS EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Jarrod Davis, of Blossburg, Pennsylvania, for his Eagle Scout project in honor of our Nation's veterans.

Jarrod, the grandson of a World War II veteran, wanted his Eagle Scout project to benefit veterans, so he began working in the spring on a reflection project outside the Veterans Center in Charleston Township, in Tioga County.

He collected donations to assist with establishing a flagpole, black metal benches, and a monument. At the project's completion, he donated the remaining funds to the Veterans Affairs Outreach Fund.

Jarrod worked with 10 volunteers on the project for 3 months, and he spent about 80 hours working on his Eagle Scout project. The flagpole and the reflection area were finished on April 21.

Jarrod, who graduated from North Penn-Liberty High School in June, now works at Sullivan Farms in Mainesburg. His project was dedicated earlier this month, on the 76th anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day on December 7.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of Jarrod, his patriotism, and his respect for those who serve. I wholeheartedly commend Jarrod Davis on this outstanding project.

CONFRONTING THE GUN VIOLENCE
EPIDEMIC

(Mr. QUIGLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, it has been 5 years since 20 children were senselessly murdered in the Sandy Hook massacre. And while we will never forget the young lives we lost that day, we must also remember that this tragic, life-altering and life-robbing epidemic continues to impact thousands of other families across the country.

Two weeks ago, I had the honor of meeting the parents of Alexandria Burgos. On October 19, 2014, Alexandria was picking up her brother from a friend's house when her life was cut short by a stray bullet shot through an apartment window. She was 18 years old. She worked with kids at the local YMCA and hoped to be a social worker after graduating from college.

Like her parents, I am telling her story to push the conversation forward, the conversation that includes thoughts and prayers, but also must lead to action.

Alexandria's story and the pain felt by her loved ones is something that far too many have had to endure in this country. Let 2018 be the year that we do more than reflect on the lives we have lost and finally step up to find the courage to confront gun violence.

OBSTRUCTION OF A DEA
INVESTIGATION INTO HEZBOLLAH

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my outrage at a detailed report by Politico which included testimony that President Obama and his administration obstructed a major DEA investigation into Hezbollah when they wanted to secure the Iran deal. These revelations are shocking and infuriating but, regrettably, not surprising. This is the same administration that sent \$1.7 billion in cash ransom to Iran.

According to the DEA, Hezbollah was operating a global criminal enterprise worth over \$1 billion, annually. They were selling drugs and running arms as a means of funding their terrorist activities.

A major DEA-led task force called Cassandra had procured mounting and incriminating evidence against them. Yet, according to senior Treasury and Defense officials, the Obama administration consistently obstructed and stonewalled the investigation in order to protect the Iran deal.

In essence, it seems President Obama and his administration were so focused on striking a deal with Iran that they let a major global terror group off the hook, even though the terror group was involved in global drug trafficking and sent massive amounts of cocaine and other drugs to our American communities.

I have sent this letter to Chairman GOWDY, urging an immediate investigation into this matter.

THIS IS THE WRONG DIRECTION
AND THE WRONG BILL

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on the floor of this House and, I guess, again today, there will be a vote on this massive tax cut targeted to people at the very top, targeting big cuts for corporations.

Like many Members on this side of the aisle, I welcome the opportunity to do comprehensive, real tax reform. And for a long time, the discussion in this body and around the country was about the need to lower the rates and broaden the base and eliminate some of those loopholes that allow some corporations to get away with paying literally no taxes at all. But instead of doing that, what we saw was a massive shift of the responsibility to fund the government away from people at the top to people who work hard every day.

There are many examples of how we could have done this better. There was a lot of discussion on the Senate side about the child tax credit. But why did we end up with a child tax credit that rewards a minimum wage family with about \$75 a year, when somebody making \$400,000 would get \$4,000? I mean, is the life of a child of a family making a half a million dollars worth that much more?

This is the wrong direction. This is the wrong bill. We should reject it.

CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF
DORIS JACKSON

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the career of Doris Jackson, who will be retiring after more than 33 years of service to the U.S. House of Representatives. Doris began working as a cashier in the Cannon Cafe in 1980 and eventually became a supervisor.

After more than three decades, there have been many changes as Members and staff have come and gone, but Doris' smile has remained ever present. I know that I speak for every Member, staffer, and intern who has had the privilege of knowing Doris when I say that we will miss her witty sense of humor and her willingness to give encouragement to everyone she meets.

In retirement, Doris plans to spend more time with family, especially her grandchildren, and to stay active in her community by volunteering at her church.

Mr. Speaker, Doris has dedicated her life to serving us as we strive to serve our constituents. On behalf of our congressional family, I wish Doris the best of luck in the next exciting chapter in her life.

Congratulations, Doris.